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LATTARULO LAW FIRM, LLC
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UNITED WAY
COMMUNITY PARTNER

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

March 26, 2010

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

The Norwalk Housing Authority is optimistic about the Federal Communications Commission's approach towards correcting disparities in broadband deployment and adoption. As you consider the National Broadband Plan, we hope that you will similarly promote policies that will help to bridge the digital divide.

As evidenced by the FCC's recent study on broadband adoption, more than one-third of Americans do not use broadband at home. Whether these Americans cannot get broadband where they live, are unable to afford service, or do not see the value of broadband technology, it is imperative everyone gains access to broadband and its opportunities. Given the current economic climate, broadband is a critical tool for job searches and applications, continued education and skills training, and entrepreneurship. Furthermore, broadband enables innovative and cost-saving applications like telemedicine.

The National Broadband Plan makes significant strides to expand Americans' access to these innovative solutions that broadband enables. However, we are concerned that certain aspects of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking could make achieving the Plan's primary objective – universal broadband access – more difficult. The net neutrality regulations under the NPRM could deter private sector investment, potentially slowing the nationwide deployment of broadband and making it less accessible to those currently lacking a home connection.

Housing Authority of the City of Norwalk

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Additional regulations could also have broader consequences for our national economy, specifically jobs. Reductions in investments would directly affect the workers who build wired and wireless networks, and have a ripple effect on software and network equipment providers.

In order to eradicate the digital divide and ensure that all Americans are able to experience the benefits of broadband, the FCC should pursue policies that promote broadband adoption, rather than potentially limiting it. In addition, we hope that the Commission will not take any actions that will inhibit the success of critical applications like distance learning and telemedicine over the Internet. We hope that the FCC will take advantage of the opportunity to eradicate the digital divide as you implement the National Broadband Plan.

Sincerely,



Curtis O. Law
Executive Director